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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Notes of Military Interest

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Praga (Českomoravská Kolben-Daněš) works in Prague are producing military personnel carriers which are being delivered to the USSR, Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria. They are caterpillar vehicles* with powerful eight-cylinder, V-type engines, and are capable of pulling both light and medium field artillery pieces. Nine men are carried on the vehicles. The factory is also supplying the above-mentioned countries with Praga-RN trucks, which may be used as prime movers or personnel carriers. The Škoda plant at Plzeň (Pilsen) is manufacturing vehicles similar to the American jeep, which are being exported to the USSR and all the satellites.
2. Railway marshalling yards are being substantially expanded on the Čop-Košice line (leading from Subcarpathian Russia to the west) and on the Košice-Žilina-Bohumín line (Slovakia's northern east-west artery). The Čierna pri Cope yard, where the tracks change from broad to normal gauge, is being equipped with all types of freight handling equipment, including large cranes capable of lifting tanks from one freight car to another.
3. In 1946 Czechoslovakia received 600 jet aircraft as reparations from Germany. Their engines were delivered to the Malešice Praga works, where they were re-adapted for lower fuel consumption. This was accomplished by having the fuel passed through a quintuple burning process, instead of the former quadruple one, and achieving one more revolution. Consumption has thus been reduced from 600 to 450 liters.** With further improvements, test models have reached a speed 100 kph faster than originally planned for by German designers. The Malešice Praga works are still producing Junkers aircraft.
4. [REDACTED] the United Českomoravská Kolben-Daněš works (Praga) produced 600 jet fighters in 1947 - 1948. It is felt, however, that this information is false and arises through some misunderstanding of the adaptation activities covered in paragraph 3 above.
5. The Žilina (092), Prešov (E37), Spišská Nová Ves (D87), and Tri Duby (G74) airfields are being enlarged. The largest of all airfields in Slovakia is being completed just outside of Bratislava on the road to Ivánka. It has runways suitable for the heaviest aircraft and hangars camouflaged by a small forest.

CLASSIFICATION

[illegible]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. A new political police organization covering the whole of Czechoslovakia has been set up to check on the political security of the civilian population and to deal with espionage and counter-intelligence matters. The organization is called the OBR (Oblastne bezpecnostne referaty) and follows the MVD pattern. It consists mainly of very young persons who were trained in Moscow or Kiev. Each regional OBR office consists of from 12 to 20 men, equipped with the most modern arms and means of transport and communications.
7. Rumors were rife in December and January that joint Russian-Czechoslovak maneuvers would be held in the east. These rumors have largely dissipated, but two unconfirmed bits of information were recently obtained from prominent refugees:
 - a. In February 1949, local replacement and mobilization officers were preparing papers for the calling up of approximately ten classes of reservists.
 - b. A leading Communist stated at the beginning of March that great surprises would be sprung in connection with army mobilizations around the beginning of May 1949.

25X1A6a * [REDACTED] Comment: Source did not indicate whether the vehicles are half-tracked or fully-tracked.

25X1A6a ** [REDACTED] Comment: The consumption period or conditions were not indicated.

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